GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Servants - State Tax Department - Allegations of Corruption against Sri T. Ramesh Kumar Reddy, CTO-II, Kurnool presently working as CTO (Intelligence), O/o. Deputy Commissioner (CT), Kadapa Division, Kadapa – Final Report submitted by ACB – Article of Charges framed – WSD received - Appointment of Inquiry Officer -Orders Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-VI) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.909 **Date: 05/10/2023**

Read the following:-

1. From the DG, ACB, AP, Vijayawada Lr Rc.No. 198/RCO-KUR/2017, dt:1.04.2019
2. From Sri T. Ramesh Kumar Reddy, CTO, Representation, Dt:25.05.2019
3. G.O.Ms.No.976, Revenue (Vig.II) Department dated:25.09.2019.
4. From the DG, ACB, AP, Vijayawada Lr Rc.No. 198/RCO-KUR/2017, dt:04.08.2021
5. G.O.Rt.Nos.593 , Rev (Vig.II) Dept., dt: 27.09.2021
6. From Sri T. Ramesh Kumar Reddy, CTO, Representation, Dt:20.01.2022

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ORDER:

The Director General of the Anti-corruption Bureau in Vijayawada received an email from Sri Chanda Unapathi on August 16, 2015. The email reported that an incident involving a truck carrying Kadapa slabs owned by Sri Chowdeswari Devi Stone Polishing Industries. The truck, with license plate number MH 17 BD 7848, was stopped by Sri T. Ramesh kumar Reddy, CTO Kurnool, on August 15, 2015. Sri Ramesh Reddy demanded a bribe of Rs. 40,000 and seized all the truck's records, claiming the slabs lacked proper documentation. The complainant was asked to meet Sri Ramesh Reddy on August 16, 2015, to resolve the issue.

2. Whereas, the DG.,ACB, AP., Vijayawada initiated an enquiry and assigned the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Kum A. Rama Devi to investigate. She conducted a partial enquiry and later transferred the case to DSP Sri. C. Jayarama Raju in 2017. Raju conducted the enquiry and submitted a draft final report to the DG in November 2017. Based on the report, a Regular Case Order (RCO) was registered against T. Ramesh Kumar Reddy on December 11, 2017. The case was handed to Inspector Sri. H. Nagabhushnam for investigation. A case was registered on December 18, 2017, under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1980, alleging that Reddy accepted a bribe of Rs.20,000 to release a lorry without proper documentation. The DG, ACB, Vijayawada has requested the Government to issue sanction order as required under Section 19(1)(b) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

3. Whereas, in reference 2nd read above, the Accused Officer, Sri. T. Ramesh Kumar Reddy, a former Commercial Tax Officer in Kurnool, filed a representation along with several copies of reports and documents. He requested the government to conduct a Departmental inquiry into the case based on the facts.

4. And Whereas, after detailed verification of the documents including complaint emails, an FIR, witness statements, and various reports, it has been determined that the Accused Officer cannot be held accountable for inspecting a lorry on 15.08.2015 in Kurnool, as it was not present in Andhra Pradesh on that day. The allegations of demand and acceptance lack a basis. The final report from the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) does not mention any recovery of funds from the A.O, but rather states that a bribe was given by the complainant's brother-in-law. Given these findings, there are insufficient grounds to prosecute A.O/Sri. T. Ramesh Kumar Reddy, CTO, in court.

5. Whereas, in the reference 3rd read above Government have refused the grant sanction for the prosecution of the said Accused Officer Sri. T. Ramesh Kumar Reddy, the then CTO, Kurnool for the aforesaid offences punishable under Section 7 and Section 13 (1) (d) r/w 12(20 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and for any other cognate offences punishable under other provisions of law for the time being in force in respect of the acts aforesaid and for taking cognizance of the said offences by the court of competent jurisdiction. Hence, Government have ordered to entrust the case to Department al Inquiry instead of granting permission to prosecute the A.O Sri Ramesh Kumar Reddy, the then CTO, Kurnool.

6. Whereas, in the reference 4th cited, the Director General, Anti- corruption Bureau, Vijayawada has furnished the draft articles of charges, statement of imputations etc in respect of Accused Officer on the allegations for initiating the Departmental action. Accordingly, in the reference 5th read above, the Government have framed charges against Accused Officer. The AO submitted his WSD and it is not convincing. The government have concluded that a Departmental inquiry against the AO Sri Ramesh Kumar Reddy, the then CTO, Kurbnool by appointing the Inquiry Officer, under Rule 20 of APCS (CCA) Rules, 1991.

7. Now, therefore, in exercise of the power conferred by Sub-Rule (2) of Rule 20 of the said Rules, Government hereby appoint Smt. Jangam Neeraja JC, Anantapuram Division as an Inquiry Officer to inquire into the charges framed against Sri T. Ramesh Reddy, CTO. The Inquiring Authority shall submit his inquiry report within two months, in duplicate, with her own attestation.

8. Copies of the Articles of Charge framed against the Charged Officer and Written Statement of Defences are enclosed.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

N GULZAR
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Smt J.Neeraja, Joint Commissioner, (ST), Ananthapuram Division (through the CCST, Kunchanapalli, A.P., Guntur)
The Chief Commissioner of State Tax, A.P., Kunchanapalli, Guntur.
SF/SC

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER